

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 OMB-01 USIE-00 PRS-01 SP-02

SAB-01 IO-03 /049 W

----- 047763

R 291409Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8736

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6834

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IS, PN

SUBJ: ISRAELI ARMS SALE TO PANAMANIAN

REF: TEL AVIV 5029

1. MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL EVRON TOLD DCM OCT 29 THAT HE HAD BEEN DISTURBED TO LEARN THAT GOI DECISION NOT TO SELL ARMS TO PANAMA HAD BEEN PUBLICIZED. HE SAID THAT "MUCH TO HIS CHAGRIN" HE HAD LEARNED THAT THE MIAMI HERALD CARRIED AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE PANAMANIAN REQUEST, THE ISRAELI DESIRE TO SELL THE ARMS, AND THE EVENTUAL ISRAELI REFUSAL AS A RESULT OF A U.S. REQUEST. THE HERALD STORY WAS REPORTEDLY BASED ON A REPORT FROM AN AP MILITARY CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE OBTAINED THE STORY FROM "INTELLIGENCE SOURCES".

2. EVRON SAID THAT THE STORY HAD ALREADY BEEN PICKED UP AND PUBLISHED IN COSTA RICA, AND HE EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD SOON SURFACE IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE IT COULD DAMAGE ISRAEL. IN PANAMA ITSELF, AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THE STORY HAD NOT APPEARED. HOWEVER, WHEN A GROUP OF JEWISH LEADERS APPROACHED THE PRESIDENT OF PANAMA  
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ON THE UN ZIONISM VOTE, THE PRESIDENT HAD COMMENTED: "ISRAEL

HAS ITS OWN INTERESTS AND SO DO WE". EVRON SAID THAT THIS WAS INTERPRETED TO BE A REFERENCE TO THE ARMS SALE REFUSAL.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF JUDGING WHERE THE LEAK IN THIS INSTANCE CAME FROM, BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FROM ISRAELI SOURCES AS WELL AS ANYWHERE ELSE. IN ANY CASE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION THE DEPT COULD LET US HAVE, PARTICULARLY (A) INFORMATION THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO PLACE EVRON'S COMPLAINT IN PERSPECTIVE, AND (B) WHETHER DEPT HAS BEEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THE PROPOSED SALE. IT HAS NOT YET APPEARED IN PRESS HERE.  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, ARMS SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TELAV06834  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D750375-0347  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, IS, PN  
**To:** STATE  
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